

MINUTES OF ELEVENTH SEMI-ANNUAL FEIS-BBC COVERAGE
COORDINATION MEETING HELD AT KYRENIA
ON THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 1958.

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PRESENT:

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Mr. [redacted]	Chief, FEIS Mediterranean Bureau
Mr. V. Rubinstein:	Senior Assistant I, BBC Monitoring Service
Mr. [redacted]	Chief Monitor, FEIS Mediterranean Bureau
Mr. [redacted]	Acting Chief Editor, FEIS Mediterranean Bureau
Mr. [redacted]	Cruising Monitor, FEIS Mediterranean Bureau

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1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Tenth Biannual Coverage Coordination Meeting held at Caversham on Wednesday 15 January 1958 were read and approved.

2. ARABIC COVERAGE

FEIS and BBC noted their present Arab staffing positions. FEIS currently has thirteen Arab monitors, including four part-time code operators, two trainees, and one advanced trainee. One recruit is scheduled to enter on duty in the near future, bringing the total to fourteen. BBC currently has the services of eight Arab monitors, including two on a temporary basis and one who is partly engaged in the monitoring of Swahili.

It was agreed that in the present circumstances the division of Cairo Home Service coverage is entirely satisfactory but it was noted that FEIS intends to resume full responsibility for this coverage when its monitor trainees have achieved competence. It was agreed that arrangements for Arabic coverage should be kept as flexible as possible and that the situation should be kept under close review. FEIS agreed to continue backstopping the Voice of the Arabs as at present.

3. SOVIET REGIONALS

Summer reception conditions were reviewed and it was agreed that on the whole the present allocation of regional coverage was satisfactory and resulted in practically no duplication of transcriptions. BBC suggested that, providing reception conditions next summer are similar to those of this season, BBC might assume full responsibility for coverage of Alma Ata, in addition to other Central Asian transmitters, since Alma Ata reception appeared to be somewhat variable at Kyrenia. The possibility of transferring full responsibility for coverage of Bryansk and Kostroma studios to the PBC during the summer months was discussed. FEIS and BBC agreed that last winter's allocation of coverage was satisfactory and could well serve as a pattern for next winter.

4. HEADLINES

The question of FEIS failing to the BBC headlines of certain programs was again raised. FEIS supplied a current list of these commitments and requested BBC to give them close review with a view to reducing their number. It was noted that the commitments in question had recently been reviewed by the BBC but that a further appraisal would be made.

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FBIS agreed to advise BBC daily of lengthy items, one take or more, which FEIS processes from Ankara Home Service 0545, 1100, 1700, and 1815. It was agreed that this information would reach BBC no later than 2045 GMT each day.

5. RECRUITING

There was a general discussion of recruiting problems. FEIS agreed to keep BBC informed of recruiting developments, particularly of the results of contacts with monitor candidates suggested by the BBC. FEIS specifically requested BBC assistance in recruiting a Persian monitor, possibly with a knowledge of Pashto, and a Rumanian/Hebrew monitor. FEIS is actively recruiting for a Kurdish monitor and requested BBC's assistance in this.

6. VERNACULAR LANGUAGES

In response to a BBC inquiry regarding FEIS capability in Soviet vernacular languages, FEIS advised that it has no Tadzhik capability but can monitor the following Central Asian Vernaculars: Uzbek, Turkmen and Kazakh. FEIS agreed to process, on request, occasional and exceptional material in these languages recorded by BBC.

7. LEAVE PROBLEM

FEIS and BBC agreed to exchange as early as possible information on monitors' leave schedules affecting both services, particularly as regards small language groups such as Bulgarian and Persian, with a view to facilitating mutual assistance in handling this problem.

8. APPRECIATION

FEIS and BBC expressed appreciation for the excellent cooperation between Caversham and Kyrenia, particularly during the Middle East crisis.

9. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed tentatively that the next meeting should be held in Caversham during the first half of December 1958.

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BBC Monitoring Service